

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for encoding image data in conformity with Joint Bi-level Image Group system, comprising the steps of: (a) determining  
5 whether or not a typical prediction should be performed; (b) if a result of determination at step (a) is negative, determining whether or not all the pixels in a region composed of lines including pixels constituting a context are white; (c) if a result of determination at  
10 step (b) is affirmative, determining whether or not a predicted value corresponding to a context of which all the pixels are white is white; (d) if the result of determination at step (a) is affirmative, if the result of determination at step (b) is negative, or if a result of determination at step (c) is negative, performing a first single line encoding process; and (e) if the result of determination at step (c) is  
15 affirmative, performing a second single line encoding process.